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888 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 (202) 835-8000
FACSIMILE (202) 835-8136

CHICAGO OFFICE THREE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA 60602
DALLAS OFFICE 3700 BANK ONE CENTER 1717 MAIN STREET 75201

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NEAL M. GOLDBERG
(202) 835-8064

August 12, 1993

William Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ET Docket No. 93-7

Dear Mr. Caton:

Enclosed for filing, on the behalf of Tandy Corporation ("Tandy"), is the original of Tandy's Comments on the "Industry Proposal for Compatibility Between Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment." The Comments were filed on August 10, 1993 with a facsimile signature.

Sincerely,



Neal M. Goldberg

Enclosure



Tandy Corporation

Executive Offices 1900 One Tandy Center Post Office Box 17180 Fort Worth, Texas 76102 Telephone (817) 390-3700

John V. Roach
Chief Executive Officer
Chairman of the Board
390-3214

August 10, 1993

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The Honorable James Quello
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Comments on the "Industry Proposal for Compatibility Between
Cable Systems and Consumer Electronics Equipment"
ET Docket No. 93-7**

Dear Chairman Quello:

Tandy Corporation wishes to address the Supplemental Comments of the Cable-Consumer Electronics Compatibility Advisory Group pursuant to Section 17 of The Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992.

Tandy Corporation is the nation's largest retail chain of consumer electronics with approximately 7,000 stores and dealer/franchise outlets in its distribution system of Radio Shack, McDuff Electronics, VideoConcepts, The Edge in Electronics, Computer City SuperCenters and Incredible Universe stores. Sales of video electronics including televisions, video recorders and video accessories represents a major part of Tandy's retail sales.

Tandy supported the actions of the 102nd Congress in addressing the huge economic loss to American consumers of not being able to utilize the functions and features included with today's consumer electronics products sold at retail because of incompatibility with cable systems.

We applaud the Advisory Group in its efforts to set future standards for a Hybrid (Analog/Digital) Cable Interface, and believe that the achievement of industry standards will accelerate the evolution of a new generation of video products to the market.

However, we are distressed that the Advisory Group was not able to agree on complete and immediate solutions to bring relief to consumers who are currently plagued with the loss of functionality of home video products because of incompatibility with cable decoder boxes and remotes. Moreover, American consumers will purchase billions of dollars of televisions and VCR's over the next several years before the new Hybrid Decoder Interface is developed.

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Chairman Quello
Federal Communications Commission
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An additional concern is that the Advisory Group made few recommendations on how to promote the commercial availability of decoder boxes and remote controls in a competitive manufacturing environment.

We understand and appreciate the rights of cable companies for protection against signal theft. Further, it is acknowledged that the immediate solutions to the compatibility issues are complicated due to multiple technologies involved.

However, it is clear that Congress intends that the consumer issues must be addressed as a priority. Even the Act itself is titled, "Consumer Protection and Competition."

Tandy respectfully suggests that so long as decoder boxes remain in the exclusive domain of the cable companies, a cost effective and functional solution to compatibility in the near term will be difficult to find. Tandy believes that in an open and competitive equipment market, many manufacturers and consumer electronics retailers will achieve the fastest and lowest cost solutions to the consumer compatibility issue.

Tandy urges the Commission to fully implement all three aspects of Section 17, and to assure that the requirements to provide short term solutions and promoting commercial availability of equipment are given no less priority than the importance of developing future standards.

Yours very truly,



John V. Roach

cc: William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
FCC